

GEORGE and MARGARET HANNAH MUIR

George Muir was born in Scotland. He married Margaret Hannah Jan 1850. They joined the LDS church. They had two little girls, Mary and Jane, before making plans to come to Utah. They left Scotland in 1856 and started crossed the plain in one of the first handcart companies. Then they got near Fort Bridger Margaret had a baby boy they named James Mountain. This delayed them for a day or so. The others in the party moved on. George was able to secured transportation for Margaret and the three children in an ox-drawn wagon, and they brought them into Salt Lake. He continued on with his hand cart quickening his pace until he caught up with his original party.

While in Scotland he worked in the coal mines so Brigham Young sent him to Sanpete county to open one of the first coal mines in the state for members of the church. In this mining adventure he lost the sight in one of his eyes. He walked unassisted to Salt Lake for medical attention. He opened many coal mines for the church. He undoubtedly opened more coal mines in the area than any other person during the period 1858-90.

When Christina Howie Lindsay and her eight children came to Heber Valley, George Muir and his wife, Margaret, took her and her family in. Margaret and Christina were cousins and knew one another well in Scotland. A little later George married Christina also as a plural wife and they were very good to her and her family.

Christina and George had two sons—John L., (Curtis Muir's father) and George Muir (Dan Muir's father). George and Christina both took out a homestead of 80 acres each. Christina's was where the Stake center now stands on the corner of 2400 So. and 1200 East. To "prove" a homestead one had to live on the property and make improvements for at least five years I think it was. This is the only time I know of that Christina lived in Center Creek, but five of her sons made their home here, and when she became old and not very well she stayed with her son, James and his wife and died here.

Either on her farm or George's farm, he dug a well that is mentioned in the Wasatch Wave: "The deepest well in Wasatch County is at George Muir's ranch on Center Creek. It is 185 ft. deep and was dug a few years ago by Mr. Muir and his sons. This spring it became necessary to put in new lagging. The well is timbered up much like a mine and up to date they have put in 7,000 ft. of plank, lumber measure."—Wasatch Wave Apr 10, (27) 1994—100 Years Ago."

George Muir with two of his step-sons, Andrew and James Lindsay, were successful in boring a tunnel through the mountain at the head of Daniels, which brought water from Colorado Basin into the Great Basin. This was a great accomplishment with the crude methods they had available to work with at that period of time. The water was used to water their farms.

A more complete history of their lives is written in the DUP book "How Beautiful Upon the Mountain" on pp. 457-8



George Muir